



Welcome to AG-ASSIST, a WSDA-sponsored Listserv that is dedicated to chemigation, fertigation, irrigation practices, pesticide use, and related topics.

September 6, 2006

Chemigation and Fertigation Technical Assistance Program

Welcome to the September 2006 Issue of AG-ASSIST

Posting of Previous Issues

If you have recently subscribed to AG-ASSIST, previous issues are posted in the archive, which can be accessed by clicking on the "Archives" action button located at the end of this issue, or by navigating to the following link: <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/ag-assist-wsda.html>.

Archival files along with any supplemental materials can also be accessed in an Adobe Reader (*.pdf) format at <http://agrapolydev01/agrwebdev/PestFert/ChemFert/agassistwsda/default.htm>.

Notice to Commercial Applicators and Commercial Operators

In preparing for the fall soil fumigation season, amongst all the other details, commercial applicators need to check on the license status of their commercial operators, including their registration with the Department of Agriculture under the commercial applicators license.

[RCW 17.21.091\(1\)](#) reads, "No commercial pesticide applicator shall allow a person to apply pesticides under the authority of the commercial pesticide applicator's license [that is, the commercial operator] unless the commercial pesticide applicator has . . . submitted the name to the department." In other words, a commercial operator's license is not valid unless that person's name is registered with the department under the commercial applicator's license.

If an employee is acting in the capacity of a commercial operator or under the licensed authority of a commercial applicator but has not been registered as such, the commercial applicator is in violation of RCW 17.21.091(2).

The form is titled "SUPPLEMENTAL COMMERCIAL APPLICATOR PESTICIDE LICENSE APPLICATION" and includes instructions to use it for reporting business, employee, and equipment changes. It is divided into several sections: A) COMPANY INFORMATION, B) GROUND/CHEMIGATION EQUIPMENT, C) AERIAL EQUIPMENT, and D) BUSINESS VEHICLES. Section A includes fields for company name, address, phone, and fax. Section B includes a table for equipment with columns for No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, and No. 5, and rows for Make of Apparatus, Number and Size of Tanks, WSDA Plate Number, and FAA AG. CERTIFICATE NO. Section C includes fields for Number of Aircraft, Make and Color, Helicopter (H) or Plane (P), and WSDA License Plate No. Section D includes a table for commercial applicator motor vehicle identification stickers with columns for No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, and No. 5, and rows for Make of Vehicle, Year, Make and Color, and WSDA License Plate No. The form also includes a section for "NUMBER OF WINDSHIELD STICKERS NEEDED" and a footer with the WSDA logo and contact information.

Registration is accomplished by mailing or faxing WSDA Form (AGR 640-4242), *Supplemental Commercial Applicator Pesticide License Application*, to the Licensing and Recertification Branch. The fax number and mailing address appear below. The form may be obtained by calling a WSDA office or by either clicking on or navigating to the following Internet address: <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/docs/Form4242.pdf>.

Finally, the commercial operator's license should contain the soil fumigation endorsement ("O" category).

<u>Mailing Address:</u> Pesticide Licensing & Recertification WA State Department of Agriculture P.O. Box 42589 Olympia, WA 98504-2589	<u>Fax Number:</u> 360-902-2093 Please direct the fax to the attention of: Pesticide Licensing and Recertification If a problem is encountered, please contact the Licensing and Recertification Branch by calling the WSDA toll free phone number: 1-877-301-4555.
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Intermittent Chemigation Assistance by Private and Commercial Applicators

An article that appeared in the first issue of AG-ASSIST summarized a proposal set forth by the Chemigation Advisory Committee. The committee requested an interpretation by the Department as to the legitimacy under current rule of allowing intermittent support activities by commercial and private personnel during a chemigation application.

Under current laws and rules, each involved party is required to keep a pesticide application record of their own activities, whether the duration of that activity is for a couple of minutes or for several hours. Each record must contain all of the information required in RCW 17.21.100(1) and [WAC 16-228-1320\(1\)](#). Additionally, a separate application record must be filled out each time an application switches from commercial to private, or vice versa. This means each party – the primary applicator and anyone who assists with the application – may have multiple pesticide application records for the same chemigation application.

WSDA is considering an enforcement policy that would allow one of the participating parties to maintain a single pesticide application record throughout the application. However, WSDA would only allow this when the following conditions are met:

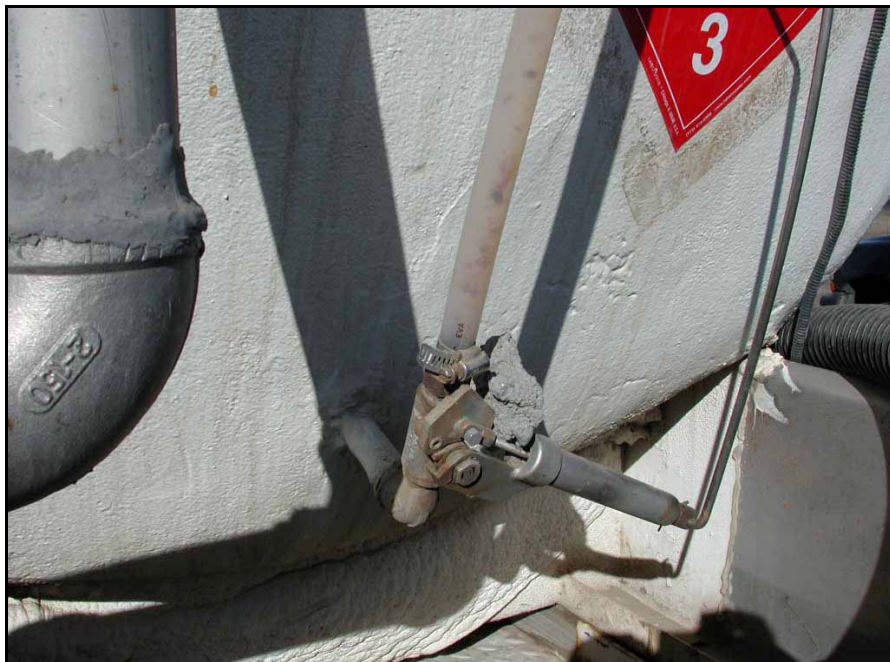
- ✦ Before the application starts (or, at a minimum, before a second party becomes involved in an application), both parties must sign a *WSDA Chemigation Assistance Agreement* form that identifies who will maintain the pesticide application record throughout the application, thereby obligating the other party to maintain an activity log of support activities undertaken during the chemigation application.
- ✦ The activity log must include the reporting criteria as outlined in the *Activity Log Criteria*.
- ✦ At the completion of the application, the activity log must be maintained with and attached to the pesticide application record, and both documents must be made available to WSDA upon request.

A draft *WSDA Chemigation Assistance Agreement* and *Activity Log Criteria* can be viewed at <http://agrapolydev01/agrwebdev/PestFert/ChemFert/agassistwsda/default.htm>. WSDA is seeking comments on this enforcement policy prior to its possible adoption. Please send your comments before the end of September to Tom Hoffmann at thoffmann@agr.wa.gov.

Prop Rocks and Dead-Man Valves

No . . . it has nothing to do with punk rock or hip hop music; but, yes, it does have something to do with agriculture.

When filling a cargo, portable, or permanent tank used for transporting, storing, or applying pesticides, the practice of propping open the automatic shut-off valve (dead-man valve) may seem a convenient means of checking on the fluid level during the loading progress, but the aftermath of forgetting to remove the propping object can be devastating should the liquid level gauging tube either break or work loose from its fittings, particularly when the tank is in transit.



Whether in transit or stationary, the disabling of a valve renders the load “unsecured,” a violation of FIFRA and state rule. The person who disabled the shut-off valve or anyone subsequently transporting a tank containing product could be deemed acting in a careless or negligent manner (RCW 17.21.150[4]) and potentially endangering humans and their environment (WAC 16-228-1200[1]). Whether the tanks are full or empty, “valves shall be tightly closed and manhole covers shall be secured” (WAC 16-228-1200[4]).

The practice, as depicted in the above photograph, is also in violation of Sections 170 (Security) and 200 (Temporary Field Storage) of the rules for [Secondary and Operational Containment for Bulk Pesticides](#) (Chapter 16-229 WAC).


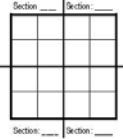
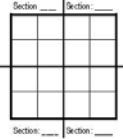
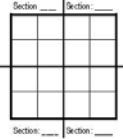
Checklist Available: Equipment Placement for Chemigation and Fertigation Applications

Building on a concept originated by CHS, Incorporated-Bruce Branch, and incorporating constructive suggestions provided by many agrichemical industry reviewers over the past two seasons, an equipment placement checklist has become a reality.

The *Checklist for Tank Placement: Chemigation and Fertigation Application Pressurized Irrigation System* is intended as a guide and as an advisory for field staff when sighting, placing, and setting up equipment that will be used in a chemigation or fertigation application. Using a checkbox format, line items assist field staff in assessing the suitability of an intended site for potential safety concerns, human or environmental hazards, and physical limitations. Several items also alert the user concerning common violations of state rule.

WSDA staff express their gratitude to Lori Anderson and the field staff with CHS, Incorporated-Bruce Unit for sharing this instrument, thereby facilitating the distribution of the checklist upon which it is based.

The checklist can be viewed and downloaded from <http://agrapolydev01/agrwebdev/PestFert/ChemFert/agassistwsda/default.htm>.

CHECKLIST FOR TANK PLACEMENT CHEMIGATION OR FERTIGATION APPLICATION PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION SYSTEM				 <small>PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT DIVISION 621 E. Broadway Ave., Suite 4 • Moses Lake, WA 98837 (509) 756-2574 • (509) 756-2575 • Fax (509) 756-2576</small>																																		
Customer Name: _____		Phone Number: _____		Section: _____																																		
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Location and Placement Information</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Township: _____</td> <td>OR</td> <td>Block: _____</td> <td>OR</td> <td>Latitude: _____</td> <td rowspan="4">  </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Range: _____</td> <td>OR</td> <td>Farm Unit: _____</td> <td>OR</td> <td>Longitude: _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Section: _____</td> <td colspan="2">Tank Number: _____</td> <td colspan="2">Date: _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1/4 Section: _____</td> <td colspan="2">Person Setting Tank: _____</td> <td colspan="2">Crop: _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1/8 Section: _____</td> <td colspan="2">Application Rate: _____</td> <td colspan="3">Section: _____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Location and Placement Information						Township: _____	OR	Block: _____	OR	Latitude: _____		Range: _____	OR	Farm Unit: _____	OR	Longitude: _____	Section: _____	Tank Number: _____		Date: _____		1/4 Section: _____	Person Setting Tank: _____		Crop: _____		1/8 Section: _____	Application Rate: _____		Section: _____		
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Site Evaluation and Environmental Assessment																																						
<input type="checkbox"/> Does the site pose an electrical hazard due to standing water around or near electrical outlets? <input type="checkbox"/> Prior to placement, did you inspect for rocks or other objects that could puncture the tank bottom? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the site near a road or field entry point where it could be an obstacle or hazard to equipment or vehicles? <input type="checkbox"/> Are there any obstacles that must clear the equipment, such as a center pivot tower or pivot trusses? <input type="checkbox"/> Does tank placement restrict access to control panels, screen cleaners, filters, or valves? <input type="checkbox"/> Are sensitive areas located next to or near the injection site that might require relocating the equipment? <input type="checkbox"/> Well, river, stream, irrigation ditch, drainage ditch, wasteway, or other off-farm water body <input type="checkbox"/> House, school, hospital, day care facility, or other occupied building or structure <input type="checkbox"/> Park, walkway, or public roadway																																						
Tank Placement and Preparation																																						
<input type="checkbox"/> Did you inspect the tank for holes or cracks? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the lid secured to or otherwise accompanying the tank? <input type="checkbox"/> Were the site tubes and elbow joints examined for security and soundness? <input type="checkbox"/> Are the shutoff valves intact and operational? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the tank filter in place and is the screen of the appropriate mesh? <input type="checkbox"/> Are the hoses, fittings, clamps, and fasteners secured and were they checked for tightness? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the tank located at least 20 feet away and down gradient from a water source, excluding a head ditch? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the tank placed away from ditches or drop-offs and outside of irrigation district or road rights-of-way? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the ground under the tank stable, thereby preventing excessive tilting or the possibility of tipping? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the tank have proper identification in a contrasting background color that is at least 2-inches in height? <input type="checkbox"/> Contact name <input type="checkbox"/> Identifier unique to each tank <input type="checkbox"/> Phone number <input type="checkbox"/> Maximum capacity (usually molded into the tank) <input type="checkbox"/> Does the proper product information appear on the tank? <input type="checkbox"/> Chemigation: full pesticide label and, if necessary, the EPA Establishment Number (container label) <input type="checkbox"/> Fertigation: list of primary content(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Did you place the tank so that the identification information is visible from the field edge or an access road?																																						
Injection Equipment																																						
<input type="checkbox"/> Is the correct plug in the pump? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the pump positioned out of the way and is it clearly visible? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the injection point located at least 10 feet away from a sensitive area, such as a wellhead or overflow? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the feed hose from the tank sound and securely attached to the tank and to the pump? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the chemigation line check valve compatible with the product, with at least a 10 psi spring? <input type="checkbox"/> For Commercial Applications: Does injection unit have a WSDA license plate with a current year tag?																																						

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